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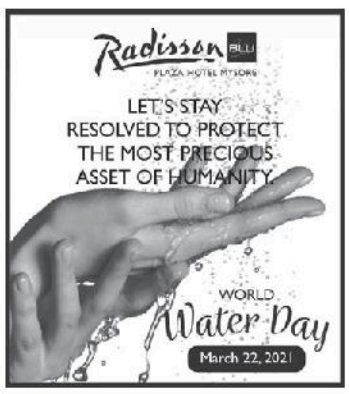


The Big Fleece !

MCC now wants businesses to pay for keeping Generators and Air Conditioners, also 20% extra for Trade Licence

Mysuru, Mar. 22 (RK&BCT)- The cash-strapped Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has decided to increase the Trade Licence fee by 20 percent for three years with effect from Apr. 1, 2021.

In an order issued on Feb. 5 this year, the MCC has stated that the revised Trade Licence fee that was implemented on 1.4.2018 after taking the consent from the Council ends on Mar. 31, 2021 and as such, new fee structure will come into effect from Apr. 1, 2021 with a 20 percent hike. Obtaining a Trade Licence is mandatory under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act 1976. The Act has empowered the MCC to revise Trade Licence fee once every three years.

The MCC has identified over 250 types of businesses and the order stated that traders have to pay an additional Rs. 1,728 apart from the Trade Licence fee if they have air conditioners or generators in their premises. Also, those traders who use electricity for their business have to pay an additional Rs. 18 per HP/kilowatt every time apart from the Trade Licence fee. Also, separate fee has been fixed for traders who use up to 10 HP/kilowatt, up to 50 HP/kilowatt and those who use more than 51 HP/kilowatt. Up to 10 HP/kilowatt, the fee is Rs. 864 and for additional use, traders have to pay Rs. 18 per HP/kilowatt. Up to 50 HP/kilowatt, the fee is Rs. 1,728 and for additional use, traders have to pay Rs. 18 per HP/kilowatt. If more than 51 HP/kilowatt is used, traders have to shell out Rs. 1,728 as fee and for additional use, they have to pay Rs. 18 per HP/kilowatt.

But this move to extract fee for generators and air conditioners has irked traders who have termed it irrational.

Many traders have complained to *Star of Mysore* that it is a summer shock delivered by the MCC.

(See FLEECE on page 6)

Chief Justice of India
S.A. Bobde visits Mysuru

Chief Justice of India (CJI) S.A. Bobde feeding a Macaw Parrot housed at 'Shuka Vana' in Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram in city yesterday as Sri Ganapathy Swamiji looks on.

Mysuru, Mar. 22- Chief Justice of India (CJI) S.A. Bobde was in Mysuru on a 2-day private visit with his family members on Mar. 20 and 21.

Justice Bobde, who arrived at Mysore Airport in Mandakalli on Saturday morning, visited Chamarajanagar by road. The CJI offered *puja* at Haralukote Anjaneyaswamy Temple in Ramasamudra and later called on the much sought-after Purohit Vijay Kumar at his residence near Forest Nursery in the town before travelling to Mysuru via Nanjangud. Police provided zero traffic to the CJI during his to and fro road travel.

The CJI also visited Suttur Mutt at the foot of Chamundi Hill on Saturday at around 9 pm.

After staying overnight in city at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel on Saturday, the CJI visited Mysuru Zoo yesterday amidst tight security.

The CJI, who is given Z Plus security cover, arrived at the Zoo Gate at 11.20 am. He was closely guarded by gun-totting Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and the local Police.

After going around the Zoo, the CJI visited Chamundi Hill temple at 12.10 pm. Before leaving Mysuru he visited Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram on Nanjangud-Ooty Road. During his three-hour stay at the Ashram, he spent nearly one-and-a-half-hour at the 'Shuka Vana' (Parrot Park) in the sprawling Sri Ganapathy Ashram premises and had lunch.

(See BOBDE on page 7)

Mini-containment zones to come up in city, district

COVID-19 tests resume at crowded places; DC says mini-lockdown likely

Mysuru, Mar. 22 (PM&DM)- Preparing to combat the outbreak of second wave of COVID-19, Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri said that the District Administration is planning to mark mini-containment zones in city and district. "We are also planning to impose mini-lockdowns at specific places in city and district in case positive cases rise," she said.

While the administration is planning mini-containment zones, testing has been scaled up and Health Department employees are already conducting testing at crowded places across the city.

Speaking to reporters at Zilla Panchayat premises this morning, Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri said that mini-containment zones and mini-lockdown are being done following the State Health Minister's warning of second wave.

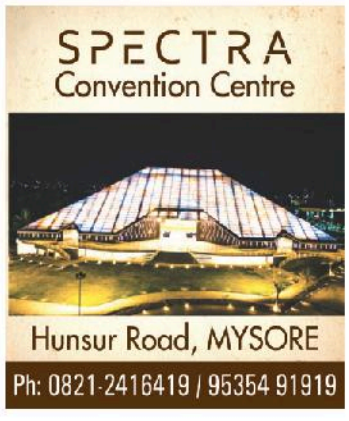
"We have laid out rules regarding conduct of *jathras*, marriages and such other mass functions. However, there is a demand that the cap on people participation be raised. We cannot take chances here considering the safety and health of the people," she said.

Health staff conducting RT-PCR test near Chikkagadiyara today.

(See ZONES on page 7)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Abracadabra titled "Believe It or Not!" —Ed



STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 22nd March 2021

Mysuru boxers win medals at State Championship

City-based boxers won medals in Karnataka State Boxing Championship-2021 organised by Karnataka Amateur Boxing Association at Uttharahalli Grounds in Bengaluru from Mar. 12 to 14. *Standing from left:* ***Naveena (Bronze - Senior), Yash Raj (Certificate of Appreciation), Team Manager Siddharth, Head Coach Samith Bhat, Assistant Coach Anjali, Dhruva (Silver - Junior) and Harish (Bronze - Senior);*** *Kneeling from left:* ***Samarth (Gold - Sub-Junior), Leela (Gold - Junior) and Pradeeptha (Gold - Senior). All athletes are trained at Genesis Mixed Martial Arts.***

S. Prajwal of Mysuru, under the guidance of coach K.S. Ravindra, took part in the State-level Boxing Championship affiliated to Karnataka Amateur Boxing Association at Uttarahalli, Bengaluru and has won Bronze Medal in Light Welterweight Division.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

IAS officers and bureaucrats have been averse to changing rules or operating procedures as these ensure their safety. Take it a tribal trait or genetic fault — a universal 'Yes Minister' syndrome. Yes, they have deep-rooted reservations about assisting crony capitalists and do not want to go to jail. Despite in-built conservatism, bureaucrats look up to political authority to cut the Gordian knot, very much like Narasimha Rao did in 1991, ably assisted by Dr. Manmohan Singh. A PM with fire in his belly was expected to usher in revolutionary changes in the manner in which the bureaucracy functioned, not just 10 lateral recruits. This spirit has hardly been evident and extraordinary results cannot come by retaining the old system and simply overheating it. Wooing the private sector after six years of economic mismanagement is quite understandable — but not by kicking civil servants repeatedly. The largest chunk of IAS recruits now comes from IITs, IIMs and NITs, through a competitive examination that is tougher than Harvard or MIT. Utilising them more productively calls for a high level of vision, management and motivation.

— Jawhar Sircar in The New Indian Express

NEWS SPARKLERS

Normal cups replaced with baby bottles

Kuwait: Einstein Café, a popular coffee chain operating in several middle-eastern countries has come under fire for sparking a controversial trend of replacing paper cups with baby bottles.

It all started with Einstein Café, a dessert chain with branches in countries like the UAE, Kuwait or Bahrein. One day, allegedly inspired by pictures of trendy-looking bottles shared on social media, it changed the paper cups it usually served its drinks in with plastic baby bottle complete with transparent silicone teats. According to company management, everyone wanted to try the new bottles, even calling to book tables in advance.

The baby bottle trend got so huge that people started lining up on the sidewalks outside Einstein Cafés waiting for the chance to try the baby bottles. Some got creative and brought their own baby bottles to other cafes, and pleaded with the shocked staff to fill them up instead of the regular cups.

"Dark Watchers" spooking hikers for centuries

Santa Lucia Mountains: For almost 300 years, hikers in Santa Lucia Mountains at California have been reporting sightings of shadowy, mysterious silhouettes popularly known as "dark watchers".

The first reports of giant figures ominously perched on mountaintops date back to the 1700s, when the Spanish first came to California. They were actually the first to dub these mysterious strangers "los Vigilantes Oscuros" (the dark watchers), but the first Anglo-American settlers that came after them reported similar sightings, and the figures eventually became part of the local folklore. The strange thing is that dark watchers still show themselves to hikers in the Santa Lucia Mountains, and some have even been captured on camera.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Myth? Devil inside your body or head?

When we see a person, who is talking to himself/herself, all the time or when we notice sudden change in their behaviour compared to the past, what usually comes to our mind is he crazy? However, we call this phenomenon as auditory hallucination (hearing false voices of people talking to them). These hallucinations happen in people who are in severe distress, severe Depression, schizophrenia etc. These are easily treatable condition and with medications we can eliminate these hallucinations.

By Dr. Krishna K. R. - Consultant Psychiatry

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

****Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature***

Prednisone has been shown to be effective and is usually safe when used in short-term bursts. But if used for long-term treatment, prednisone comes with potentially serious consequences, including: High blood pressure, osteoporosis, peptic ulcers, diabetes and cataracts.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAR. 20	MAR. 21
Day's Positive Cases	59	70
Total Positive Cases	54,741	54,811
Day's Discharges	34	30
Total Discharges	53,401	53,431
Day's Deaths	0	0
Total Deaths	1,041	1,041
Total Active Cases	299	339

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

City danseuse receives D.Litt degree

Dr. Chethana Radhakrishna, Artistic Director, Gurudev Academy of Fine Arts, Mysuru and Mandya, has been awarded D.Litt degree for her thesis 'Devadharmi - Nrityada Innondu Ayama.' She is seen receiving the certificate from Governor Vajubhai R. Vala on the occasion of the 14th Convocation of Tumkur University held at Tumakuru on Mar. 5 in the presence of Prof. Y.S. Siddegowda, Vice-Chancellor of Tumkur University and Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Chancellor of the Central University of Rajasthan and NIIT University.

REALLY...?

- ***Brussel sprouts have many health benefits as they can help the digestive system, memory, eye health, strengthen the immune system and protect the body.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

While visiting Santa's house, Banta noticed that he had replaced his usual TV with a smaller model. Thinking that perhaps the larger set has broken down, Banta asked why the small one was there.

"Oh," Santa replied, "I have decided to watch less TV !!"

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 72.45
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 100.38
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.73
1 Euro	= Rs. 86.19

VOICE OF THE READER

COVID isn't over yet, let us be cautious

Sir,

With an increase in COVID cases, people are more lax with the rules to be followed. Masks are not made compulsory, nor is social distancing being enforced in Colleges and some Schools. Only a few stores and supermarkets are still conducting temperature checks and providing sanitisers.

As responsible citizens, we must be safe and inform those who are not following the rules as they might be putting others in danger. Even though we now have a vaccine, its effectiveness is still to be determined. The vaccines will take time to reach us all so we must not take these precautionary measures lightly.

It might be a good idea for the Government to re-announce preventive measures and redouble their efforts to enforce them in public spaces.

—Samyuktha Alwar
Kuvempunagar
18.3.2021

MyLAC dispatches 6.99 lakh vials of indelible ink to five poll-bound States

Mysuru, Mar. 22 (RKB&DM)- Continuing with its part in the nation's electoral process, the Mysuru-based Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd.,(formerly Mysore LAC and Paints) the only company in India authorised to produce indelible ink, has begun the process of dispatching 6.99 lakh vials of indelible ink to five poll-bound States, including a Union Territory.

Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd., popularly known as MyLAC, is dispatching the vials to four States of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry, which are going to the polls next month.

Following a requisition from the Election Commission of India (ECI), MyLAC has started dispatching the vials to these States.

West Bengal, which has the highest number of Assembly segments (294) as well the largest number of voters among the States going to the polls, will receive the biggest consignment of 2.7 lakh vials, followed by Tamil Nadu (234 Assembly seats) with 2.37 lakh vials, Kerala (140 Assembly segments) with 1.02 lakh vials, Assam (126 Assembly seats) with 83,860 vials and Puducherry with 6,000 vials.

MyLAC Chairman N.V. Phaneesh told *Star of Mysore* that the consignments of vials are expected to reach the respective States by Wednesday.

Pointing out that a total of 6.99 lakh of vials, costing Rs.11.09 crore, has been dispatched to the five poll-bound States, he said that MyLAC has followed all procedures laid out by the Government in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the dispatch of vials and as such there were no hurdles in transportation and distribution.

He further said that MyLAC was ready to supply more vials of ink to poll-bound States, if necessary, in short notice and added that the company will soon supply indelible ink to wherever bypolls are being held across the country next month.

Karnataka's Dattatreya Hosabale is new RSS General Secretary

Dattatreya Hosabale

Bengaluru, Mar.22- Karnataka-born Dattatreya Hosabale was on Saturday elected as the Sarkaryavah (General Secretary) of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological parent.

The 66-year-old Hosabale, a full-time RSS Pracharak, is now second in the RSS hierarchy after Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat.

His elevation was confirmed at the Akhila Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the highest decision making body of the RSS, which concluded its two-day meeting recently at Janaseva Kendra at Channenahalli on Magadi road in the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Hosabale is the third person from Karnataka to occupy an important position in the RSS, after H.V. Sheshadri and K.S. Sudarshan. Hosabale, who was the Sah Sarkaryavah since 2009, replaces Suresh 'Bhayyaji' Joshi, who was Sarkaryavah for 12 years. The Sarkaryavah, which is number 2 in the RSS hierarchy, has a three-year term.

Dattatreya Hosabale, who hails from Hosabale village in Soraba taluk of Shivamogga district, is multi-lingual, an erudite and effective orator. He is currently headquartered in Lucknow and looking after the BJP-RSS co-ordination.

Considered to be close to PM Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other top BJP leaders, Hosabale's appointment could redefine the Sangh's political relationship with the ruling BJP.

Incidentally, B.L.Santosh, who is also from Karnataka, is the second in the BJP's party hierarchy after National President J.P. Nadda.

Congress candidates to file nominations on March 29, 30

Bengaluru, Mar.22 (KMS&DM)- KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar said that Congress candidate for Maski Assembly by-poll will file nominations on Mar. 29 and the candidate for Basavakalyan Assembly segment on Mar.30.

Speaking to presspersons at the KPCC Office on Queens Road here on Saturday, Shivakumar said that the Congress has already announced that Basanagouda Turvihal will contest from Maski, while Mallamma, wife of late party MLA B. Narayanrao will contest from Basavakalyan Assembly segment. While Turvihal will file nomination on Mar. 29, Mallamma will file her nomination papers on Mar. 30, he said.

Expressing confidence that the Congress would win all the three seats that are going to the by-polls on Apr.17, Shivakumar said that the party would follow the COVID-19 SOPs during filing of nominations and also during poll campaigns.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Congress has finalised the candidature of former Minister and current MLA from Yemakanamaradi Satish Jarkiholi for Belagavi LS by-poll and the Congress High Command will officially announce the name in a couple of days.

Appointed as Mysore Varsity Academic Council members

Mysuru, Mar. 22- The following have been appointed as members of the Academic Council of University of Mysore — S. Nandish, a resident of Siddalingeshwara Layout in J.P. Nagar, Mysuru, T. Nagaraju, a resident of V.V. Nagar in Mandya, Dr. S.T. Prashanth, a resident of Subashnagar in K.R. Pet of Mandya district (As professional representatives of Industries, Banking, Commerce etc.),

Prof. K.V. Aiyanna (Director, Centre for Information Science and Technology, Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore- SC/ST quota), M.P. Shashikumar, a resident of Hanakere in Mandya taluk (Backward classes quota), Dr. Bhagyalakshmi, a Dentist and resident of Gokula extension of Yeshwanthpur in Bengaluru (women's quota) and L. Askar Ali, a Ph.D holder and resident of old Santhemala in Gundlupet (Religious minorities quota).

The Governor of Karnataka, who is also the Chancellor of all State-run Universities, has made these appointments.

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Gold Medallist Dr. Safiya felicitated

Mysuru, Mar. 22- Dr. Safiya, student of Farooqia College of Pharmacy, who received three gold medals from President of India Ram Nath Kovind during the 23rd Convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), was felicitated during the Fresher's Day of newly admitted students of DPharm, BPharm, PharmD & PharmD (PB) for the academic year 2020-21 at the College premises here recently.

Dr. Safiya has secured three Gold medals and 24 Ranks in her PharmD Course.

Other Rank and Merit students were also honoured with mementoes and certificates. On the occasion, the Pharmaceutical Society for 2020-21 was inaugurated by presenting sash, name plate and certificate to the office-bearers.

Padma Shree Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, President, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur and Dr. M.D Karvekar, Professor Emeritus of RGUHS, were the chief guests. Dr. M. Sayeed Ahmed, Trustee, RMET, was the guest of honour. Taj Mohammed Khan, Hon. Secretary of Farooqia Educational Institutions, Dr. Md Salahuddin, Principal of Farooqia College of Pharmacy and others were present.

The programme started with the recitation of *Quran* Verses by Akram Hussain of 1st BPharm student. 5th PharmD student Fanus Fathima, Vice-President Pharmaceutical Society, proposed a vote of thanks.

NEWS BRIEFS

Entries invited for awards

The Social Welfare Department has invited applications from achievers from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who have excelled in different fields, for conferment of awards marking Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Jayanti on Apr. 5 and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti on Apr. 14. Eligible persons can send their entries along with all supporting documents to the Social Welfare Department Office, before Mar. 24.

Pratibha Puraskar

Mysuru Mulakanadu Sabha Trust will be presenting Pratibha Puraskar to the students of Mulakanadu community who have secured 90% and above marks in SSLC and PUC exams. Eligible candidates may send the details along with a copy of marks card, photograph, address and phone number via e-mail [mysoremulakanadu@gmail.com] or WhatsApp [98453-41511] before Mar. 25.

Public auction on Apr. 8

The Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) located on Mysuru-Bengaluru Road, N.R. Mohalla, will auction old and useless materials and articles such as small instruments, aluminium articles, brass scrap, raw materials, machinery, furniture etc., in the institute premises on Apr. 8 at 11 am. Interested bidders having GST registration, can inspect the materials from 10 am to 4 pm on all working days at Government ITI premises. For details, call Mob: 87924-26277/97418-78558.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80 feet
Today	:	104.28 feet
Yesterday	:	104.89 feet
Inflow	:	126 cusecs
Outflow	:	4,150 cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00 feet
Today	:	2,266.05 feet
Inflow	:	73 cusecs
Outflow	:	760 cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00 feet
Today	:	2,823.03 feet
Inflow	:	48 cusecs
Outflow	:	45 cusecs

PFA gets custody of illegally bred dogs

Mysuru, Mar. 22 (BCT)- The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) II Court in Mysuru has handed over the custody of six dogs to People For Animals (PFA). The six dogs were rescued from an illegal backyard dog breeder at Udbur village, Jayapura, Mysuru, on Oct. 3.

Over 12 dogs of various breeds were found at Jayapura and PFA had rescued six of them with the help of Animal Welfare Office and the Police. The Court has granted custody and the canines which have been housed at The Woof Wagon Pet Resort for rehabilitation where they are recuperating.

During the raid, various pedigrees such as Huskies, German Shepherds, Dobermans, Retrievers and Labradors were found housed in dingy metal cages and were covered in ticks, fractures and infections.

According to General Dog Breeding Regulations in India, it is mandatory for dog breeders to register themselves with the State Animal Welfare Board, which this breeder had not done and as such, it amounted to illegality. PFA had booked a Police case against the breeder and had sought the custody of dogs in the Court.

As per the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rule, 2017, unnecessary mutilation of ears is banned and yet two Dobermans found with this breeder had their ears cropped and tails docked. PFA has been cracking down on illegal dog breeders due to high rates of animal abuse that occurs in this trade and has rescued more than 100 pedigrees in 2020 after they were abandoned by breeders.

Alwyn Sebastian, the legal consultant for PFA Mysuru said that during the pendency of an FIR for animal cruelty, the custody of the animal needs to be handed over to an NGO. In this particular case, PFA Mysuru had filed a complaint against a breeder who was breeding dogs in an unhygienic atmosphere and many dogs had developed severe heath complications. Their nutrition and veterinary care was neglected.

PFA Mysore approached the Court seeking custody of these 6 dogs so as to get them neutered, while the investigation was going on.

Accordingly, the same was allowed by the Court, in what is considered the first of its kind in Mysuru District, where the Court has granted custody of abused animals to an NGO. Presently, these dogs have been sterilised and vaccinated and are open for adoption after the conclusion of the case, he said.

Foundation to be formed to end human-animal conflict

Madikeri, Mar. 22 (DM)- With human-animal conflict increasing day-by-day in forest rich Kodagu district, Minister for Forest Aravind Limbavali said that a Kodagu-specific Foundation will be formed to mitigate human-animal conflict.

Replying to a question by BJP MLC Sunil Subramani in the Legislative Council recently, Limbavali said it has come to the notice of the Government that attacks on human beings by wild animals such as tigers and elephants are on the rise in Kodagu district. The Forest Department has taken many measures to prevent wild animals from straying into human habitats, he said and added that 47 water ponds have been formed to ensure that wild animals get water within the forests.

Stating that desilting of 66 water bodies is going on in the district, the Minister said that 34.35 km solar fencing and 161.60 km barbed wire fencing has been installed along the forest borders and 91.55 km elephant trench has been dug up. Besides, 33.37 km of suspended solar fencing and railway track barricades have been erected using 24.62 tonnes of old railway tracks. To erect more railway track fencing, the Department has purchased 496.17 tonnes of old railway track, he explained.

Limbavali further said that 52 rapid action teams have been formed and 71 teams to drive stray elephants have been constituted. These teams will also keep a watch on poaching, he said and added that the Government will take all measures possible to end human-animal conflicts, which has become a bane in the region.

He said that an adult female in a herd will be identified for radio collaring, to help track the movements of other elephants. Nine elephants have been radio-collared so far and the staff are keeping a track of their movements round the clock, he added.

MLA Ramdas launches development works worth Rs.1 crore

Mysuru, Mar.22 (PM&DM)- In continuation of developmental works in his Assembly Constituency, MLA S.A. Ramdas launched road development works across the Constituency yesterday by performing *guddali puja* near ISKCON Temple on Udayaravi Road coming under Wards 48 and 60.

Pointing out that Udayaravi Road that connects Vidyaranyapuram, Jayanagar, Ashokapuram, Kuvempunagar and Sharadadevinagar with the ring road is full of potholes, he said the development works now taken up will ensure smooth vehicular movement on this important link road.

Noting that there was a demand for widening of the road and construction of drains on both sides of the road, he said that the works have been taken up out of the Rs.1 crore grant provided by the Government.

Later, Ramdas performed *guddali Puja* for footpath and road asphalting works at Deveerammanni Agrahara coming under Ward 51 at a cost of Rs. 51 lakh. The MLA also launched works on the road running in front of Ganapathi Temple being taken up at a cost of Rs.10 lakh.

Corporators M.S. Shobha, Bhuvaneshwari Prabhumurthy and B.V. Manjunath, leaders Sujatha Ramprasad, Gowri, Giri and Pradeep, MCC Zonal Assistant Commissioner Nanjundegowda, official Raju and others were present.

POLICY POLITICS & PEOPLE

By Dr. R. Balasubramaniam

Measuring Higher Education

A few weeks ago, a friend called to enquire about a US University to which his son had secured admission. He was concerned as this particular University did not figure in the top 100 Universities on the QS rankings. He was worried whether spending so much money on his son's higher education was worth it and what exactly the significance of the QS rankings was?

While one can understand his concern about his son's future and the quality of higher education that he should receive, do these rankings truly measure how good a University is? What are the elements of the ranking system and who decides on the metrics? Should one even bother about measuring and ranking them in the first place.

To appreciate all this, one must accept the reality of today's situation where everyone is obsessed with measurements. Each one of us wants to constantly measure everything around us. Whether it is our own personal wealth, or our academic performance or a movie that we want to see or just saw, a meal at the local restaurant or the service that we received in a recent flight that we took; we want to constantly measure and rate. It is now become such an integral part of our lives that we do not pause to ask why are we measuring and what are the metrics that we are using.

Living in a world where education and employment are intricately linked, one needs to pay attention to the quality of education that one is likely to receive in centres of higher learning. Agencies like the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) have detailed analytical processes based on data that they collect and collate from participating Universities worldwide. We need to keep in mind that most of the ranking systems including QS have surveys that Universities need to fill.

Apart from a lengthy application process, there is also a hefty fee that Universities have to pay to be ranked. Though one can be reasonably assured about the quality and authenticity of the data provided, rarely are their due diligence mechanisms to verify them.

The QS ranking collects information in four major segments — Academic, Employment, Student related and International indicators. Indicators like the academic reputation of an Institution, the H-Index (measures both the productivity and impact of the published work) of researchers, the Citation index of the research work of the faculty, the total staff with Ph.Ds etc. The rankings also gives an overview of the kind of places that graduating students get jobs in, kind of employers participating in campus interviews, Graduate employment rate and the success of Alumni Institutions.

Student rankings relate mostly to the Faculty-Student ratio and the number of International students studying in the University. The proportion of faculty members and students that are international also are captured in the ranking process.

Experience over the last several decades has shown that these rankings are reasonably close with respect to the information that is captured. But one needs to bear in mind that the metrics have been constructed with the bias of the rich Global North and excludes several good Institutions from the Global South. The cost of participating is also a deterrent to several good but smaller Universities in Asia, Africa and South America.

Many of the Universities in these continents are teaching Universities with little or minimal research happening and this lowers the rankings when research outputs are measured. The tendency of equating brick and mortar Infrastructure with good quality is another problem that needs to be kept in mind. Some ranking systems even consider whether the Universities have cycle tracks for students and the carbon footprint that the University is leaving behind.

Traditionally, Indian Universities have also not paid much attention to engaging alumni and setting up active and strong Alumni Institutions. Most public Universities in countries like India have a perennial resource crunch and several faculty positions tend to be vacant.

Apart from this, the admission to these Universities are rarely driven by the quality of the Professors or the Departments concerned except in well-known older IITs and IIMs. Though several private Universities in India are now delivering high quality education, their participation in these ranking process is still few and far between.

What parents and students also need to consider is that the rankings may not always tell us the complete reality. While a higher ranking may be a good indicator about how good the University is, a low or absent ranking need not necessarily mean that the University is not something to be considered. Enquiries with existing students, collecting information from student blogs, talking to alumni about employment opportunities, potential internship opportunities and exchange programmes available and verifying the availability of good teaching faculty will provide good inputs for decision-making.

Finally, one needs to bear in mind the changing contours' of higher education itself. What existing rankings including that of QS provide are based on an analysis of historical data. None of the existing ones are designed to capture how Universities will look like in the future, especially in a post-COVID world.

Keeping the changing nature of what a job in the future will look like, our youth will be better served if they keep in mind their ability to adapt to personalised learning eco-systems and explore Institutions that are exploring innovative ways of ensuring such learning.

[Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Founder of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement and GRAAM, is a public policy advocate and development scholar. He is a Visiting Professor at Cornell University and IIT-Delhi. He can be reached at: email@rbalu.com]

National Bal Shree Awards presented

District Minister S.T. Somashekar is seen handing over the awards to students at ZP Hall on Friday last as City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, MLA L. Nagendra, Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri, MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag and ZP CEO A.M. Yogesh look on.

Mysuru, Mar. 22 (RK&BCT)- National Bal Shree Awards were presented to four children by District Minister S.T. Somashekar at an event held at Zilla Panchayat Hall on Friday. The awards till now were not given away to the winners of Mysuru region due to COVID-19 pandemic.

National Bal Bhavan launched National Bal Shree Scheme in 1995 and is an initiative to identify the creative potential of children in four main streams and motivate them to pursue and enhance their creative potential.

Over 80 children from across India were selected for the Bal Shree Award in 2016. In 2018, seven children from Karnataka were selected after they participated in various competitions. Of the seven children selected four are from Mysuru — 19-year-old Sindhu S. Shastry, 17-year-old C.J. Akanksh, 15-year-old Tushar N. Bharadwaj and 12-year-old N.K. Varsha.

While Sindhu bagged the award for creative writing, Akanksh took the award for scientific problem solving. Tushar bagged the award for mono-acting while Varsha was selected for the award in making Science models.

Pourakarmikas' wages to be directly credited to bank accounts from April

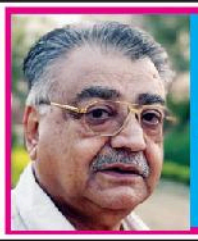
Mysuru, Mar. 22 (SBD& DM) - Good news for contract Pourakarmikas of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) — MCC will directly credit the wages to their bank accounts from April.

The MCC's move comes even as Contract Pourakarmika Mahasangha had planned to stage a strike seeking the same. MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag after coming to know of the proposed stir, held a meeting with Pourakarmika leaders at her office here on Friday.

Shilpa Nag said that the delay in direct credit of wages was due to some technical issues. Now, the wages will be directly credited to the accounts of contract Pourakarmikas starting from April and at the same time, bio-metric attendance will be introduced, according to the Mahasangha President N. Mara.

The MCC Council meeting held on Oct. 8, 2020, had passed a resolution on direct credit of wages of 839 contract Pourakarmikas approved by the DC and 724 others listed by the Council, with effect from Mar.1, 2021. But as the MCC failed to honour the Council resolution by not making direct wage credit in March, the Mahasangha had planned to stage a protest.

However, the Mahasangha has warned of staging an indefinite stir in April if the MCC fails to keep its promise.



Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Believe It or Not!

Mohan Kumar was watching TV at 10 pm. His son Viraat said he was going to the club for a party. "Have you taken the key of the main door?" asked the father. "No, leave it in the usual place," said Viraat and shot off on his nocturnal trip with his wife.

Mohan Kumar, as a good, loving father, went to the front verandah and kept the leather-pouch containing the key underneath the cushion of a designated chair and went to bed. It was not for the first time he was doing so. He had done it many times before without his sleep being disturbed by the ringing of the call bell at the dead of night.

This time, however, there was a problem the following morning. When Mohan Kumar looked for his key-pouch in the usual place where his son would keep it, it was not there.

Naturally, he asked his son Viraat for the key. The answer surprised him. He said he had not taken the key from its usual place as his wife who carried one extra key did the honour! It was clear the key-pouch was under the cushion. However, when Mohan Kumar went to collect the key-pouch it was not there! He called his son and asked as to whatever happened to the key-pouch. Viraat insisted that he had not taken it at all and did not know what happened, making a sarcastic remark, "Dad, you would not have kept the key-pouch there at all! Might have forgotten!!"

Well, when one is old, it is easy for young to blame the old for such incidents, said Mohan Kumar to himself and started looking for it all over the house. His wife, son and the domestic help too joined in. Many possible places, where the mysterious key-pouch might have been kept 'unawares', were re-visited. Many pant and shirt pockets were emptied and turned over. Entire floor was swept, furniture shifted to look under them, carpets were lifted and checked. All in vain.

Two important, critical keys were inside that small leather pouch with a zip — one of the main door and another of the bedroom. Any thief can have easy access to the house and the bedroom. For Mohan Kumar the worry was not so much of valuables or cash that the thief would rob as was the security of life of those who lived in the house.

A family meeting of sorts was immediately held along with the domestic help. There was much conjecture and speculations but leading to nowhere. General opinion was that the old man had forgotten to leave the key-pouch and he must have left it somewhere if it was not in its original place where he usually kept it. The mystery deepened. If human hand was not in this episode, how else could this key-pouch be missing or lost? A ghost, perhaps?

And the place, under the cushion of the chair, was known all these years only to Mohan Kumar, his wife and Viraat. No one else. So could it be the mischief of a ghost? A mild tremor of fright passed over everybody's person with the mention of the ghost. The sudden possibility of the presence of a ghost in the house was disturbing. One even suggested the need for exorcising the ghost with the help of an exorcist!

However, the blame once again landed in front of Mohan Kumar who was already looking haggard with the mention of the ghost in the house. Fortunately, Mohan Kumar's wife remembered the CCTV cameras installed in the house and his son got cracking to get the images. But alas, the CCTV cameras having been found dormant for years, wouldn't co-operate. At last, the provider of the CCTV camera had to be contacted and the son with his technical knowledge managed to get the images. And lo and behold, Mohan Kumar was vindicated when the camera showed his images placing the key-pouch under the cushion of the chair.

Now the mystery further deepened. Whatever happened to the key-pouch? The question remained a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma!

There was a kind of eerie silence around and son was adamant saying, he would not go to office unless the key is found. He began to rummage the drawers and Mohan Kumar's bedroom muttering the old man must have himself collected the key-pouch that morning, not having found it where his son usually kept after opening the door.

It is at this point Mohan Kumar's wife cast a doubt on Azu, a Siberian Husky, a long time resident, who forever kept moving around and inside the house, watching the inmates and even spying on them! Mohan Kumar's wife said that she had found spoons, clothes and toys being buried in the flower-beds and in the kitchen garden. She suspected that it was the work of the naughty boy Azu.

Therefore, why not follow his trail? 'Come on let us first search in the garden.' So it was, the domestic aide, the driver who had arrived by now and Mohan Kumar's wife began the 'treasure' hunt. It was like the Forest Department officials looking for pugmarks of tigers during the tiger census. This group began to trace the steps of Azu from the chair, across the portico into the garden. And lo and behold, the driver found a patch of mulched mud in one flower-bed. When he dug deep with his fingers, to his utter surprise found the leather pouch buried! But alas, there was no key. The matter was discussed and the opinion was Azu must have played with the pouch for a while dropping the keys elsewhere before deciding on the burial of the pouch.

So, another search operation began. It was again the driver who could find the keys near the security building. And thus ended the great investigation and search for a leather key-pouch. The culprit? Azu, the Siberian Husky! He was not punished, however. He was exonerated by Mohan Kumar's family who loved Azu so much and also his antics of this kind except this one time.

Tailpiece: *Apparently, Azu had seen Mohan Kumar shoving the key-pouch under the cushion and worked on it. However, the detection of the 'case' helped absolve Mohan Kumar of assumption on his son's part and, may be, others in the family about he suffering from infirmities of old age — specially forgetfulness. All is well that ends well.*

e-mail
voice@starofmysore.com

Big Fleece !

(Continued from page 1)

"Here is a new type of tax if you own a generator. You pay Rs. 1,728 per year and also Rs.18 per kilowatt to the MCC who does not give us electricity," said a businessman who owns an outlet in the heart of the city. "Who wants to use a generator if uninterrupted power is supplied to us? Not only this. If you use an air conditioner (AC), you end up paying Rs. 2,000 per year to the MCC and this is nothing but fleecing," the trader complained.

Other traders who have gone to pay the fee by Mar. 31 complained that they have been asked to pay generator and AC fee.

But MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraj told *SOM* this morning that the Trade Licence fee is not new. "Traders, right from an owner of a small shop on the street to a shop owner in a mall, have to obtain a Trade Licence and we revise the fee every three years as per the decision of the Council," he said.

Regarding the generator and AC fee, he said that this would affect only bigger businesses and small traders would not be burdened. "Only huge establishments, star hotels and businesses that have big premises will have to pay generator and air conditioner fee," he said.

The Civic Body has announced that applications received for renewal of Trade Licences till March end will be processed without penalty. From Apr. 1 to June 30, the penalty would be 10 percent of the total Trade Licence fee and from July 1 till Sept. 30, it will be 15 percent and from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 20 percent penalty.

If traders do not pay even by then, from Jan. 1, 2022 till Feb. 28, 2022, 30 percent of the total Trade Licence fee would be levied as penalty. If traders fail to pay the fee even after one year, 50 percent of the total Trade Licence fee will be levied as penalty, the MCC notification signed by the MCC Commissioner stated.

Post Apr. 1, defaulting traders will not only be liable to pay a Trade Licence fee, which will be 20 percent more than the existing fee but will also have to face the wrath of the Civic Body as collection drives will be launched.

Blood donation camp

Mysuru, Mar. 22- JCI Mysore Royal City and Rakthdan Mahadan Gowbhakth Sangathan Trust, Mysuru, have organised a mega blood donation camp tomorrow (Mar. 23) from 8 am to 4 pm at Lions Blood Centre Jeevadhara, Sayyaji Rao Road. For registration contact Mob: 99004-82345 or 98863-10666.

CJI Bobde visits Mysuru

(Continued from page 1)

Profile: Born on April 24, 1956, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde was appointed as the 47th Chief Justice of India on Nov.18, 2019, succeeding CJI Ranjan Gogoi after his retirement.

Justice Bobde, who was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on April 12, 2013, is due to retire on April 23, 2021.

Justice Bobde comes from a Nagpur-based family. His great-grandfather Ramachandra Pant Bobde, a Deshastha Rigvedi Brahmin, was a noted lawyer in Chandrapur (erstwhile Chanda) between 1880 and 1900. The family later moved to Nagpur. His grandfather Shrinivas Ramachandra Bobde was also a lawyer. Justice Bobde's father Arvind Shrinivas Bobde was Advocate-General of Maharashtra in 1980 and 1985. His elder brother late Vinod Arvind Bobde was a Senior Supreme Court lawyer and a Constitutional expert.

Justice Bobde is an avid nature lover, photographer, music lover, biker and is a vintage automobile aficionado. He also loves old artefacts.

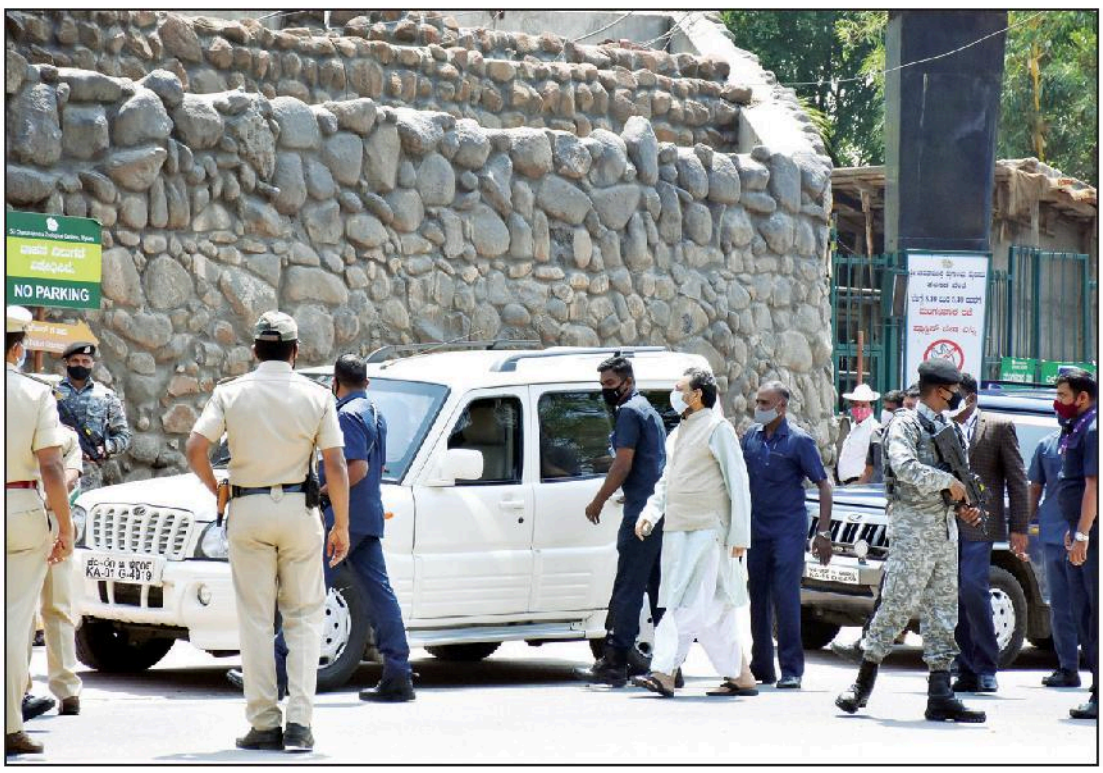
Next CJI

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad is learnt to have written to CJI Bobde on Friday, asking him to recommend the name of the next CJI, as is the practice under the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Chief Justice of India.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure governing the appointment of members of the higher judiciary, "appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office."

Under this process, after receipt of the recommendation of the CJI, the Law Minister puts it before the Prime Minister who advises the President in the matter of appointment. Justice N.V. Ramana is the senior-most Judge in the Top Court after Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde.

CJI Bobde being felicitated with Mysuru Peta, Shawl and an idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari by Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji during the VVIP's visit to the Mutt at the foot of Chamundi Hill on Saturday evening.



Tight security cover was provided to CJI S.A. Bobde during his visit to Mysuru Zoo on Sunday morning.

'No need of lockdowns or semi-lockdowns as of now'

State on the cusp of COVID-19 second wave, Minister Dr. Sudhakar confirms

Bengaluru/Mysuru, Mar. 22 (SSV&BCT)- Although there is no such situation that could force another lockdown or semi-lockdown, people should be cautious about the second wave of COVID-19 infections, Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education Dr. K. Sudhakar said.

Dr. K. Sudhakar

"As of now there is no need of lockdowns or semi-lockdowns," he clarified today. The Minister's statement came as daily cases in Karnataka shot up to 1,798. Bengaluru urban district alone contributed 1,186 cases and five deaths.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru this morning, the Minister said that false information on lockdown, semi-lockdown and night curfew are being spread through old videos. "Yes, the second wave of COVID-19 has started in Karnataka. We have not decided to impose lockdown or semi-lockdown," Sudhakar clarified.

"We will wait for the next one week to watch the behaviour of the general public and also the number of positive cases. If people continue to behave in irresponsible manner, the Government will be left with no option except implementing stricter rules till the pandemic comes under control," he said.

Seeking people's co-operation to contain the disease, he said, "We are at the beginning of the second wave of Coronavirus. Let us all join hands to control it because the next three months are crucial for us," Sudhakar said.

He said he would discuss with Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa about the COVID-19 situation in the State and measures to be taken. He said the State Technical Advisory Committee on Coronavirus has given clear guidelines to the Government stating that people would be in trouble if certain activities were not controlled. "We all will be responsible for the aftermath if the Government and people do not respond to experts' report," Sudhakar said.

Meanwhile, sources told *Star of Mysore* that a majority of the Ministers stoutly opposed any move by the Government to impose lockdown to check the pandemic and opined that it will be disastrous for the State economy which was slowly recovering now after last year's lockdown.

To a question whether election-related activities would be among those needed to be under check, Sudhakar sought to know, "Can any activity be an excuse for Coronavirus? Will it spare VIPs, political parties or religious congregations?" The Minister underlined the need for an all-party meeting in view of the Coronavirus situation since the by-elections were round the corner and all the political parties would take part in it.

BEFORE THE DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL FORUM, MYSURU.

C C No. 498 / 2019

KIRAN.S

2931, Ashoka Road, Lashkar Mohalla, Mysuru 570001

Complainant

Versus

1. The Manager, M/S Shreyas Computers Pvt Ltd **OPPOSITE PARTY 1.**
2. The Manager, NIIT Ltd.Corporate Headquarter **OPPOSITE PARTY**

PAPER PUBLICATION

Notice to opposite Party 1:

1. The Manager. M/S Shreyas Computers Pvt Ltd # 181, 'I' Block, 1st Cross, South Anikethana Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru, Karnataka 570023.

Complainant has filed a suit against the Opposite party 1 and 2 for the relief of compensation for Deficiency of Service under Consumer protection Act.

Notice is hereby given to you to **opposite party No. 1** to appear in the above-mentioned court in person or through an advocate duly instructed to appear on your behalf in the said case on 22.04.21 at 11.00 AM. If you fail to appear on the said date, the suit will be dealt and decided in your absence by placing you EXPARTE.

Issued under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court.

By Order of the Court,
DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL FORUM, MYSURU.

Sd/- Assistant Registrar cum Assistant Administrative Officer
District Forum, Mysore.

Sri. Dr. Sharath Raj
Advocate for Complainant
Place : Mysuru.| Date: 02.03.2021

If business is good it pays to advertise
When business is bad you must advertise.

Mini-containment zones to come up in city, district

(Continued from page 1)

Referring to Nanjangud *Panchamaharathotsava*, the DC said that the Government has allowed conduct of *Rathotsava* on a low-scale with the participation of just 200 devotees inside the Srikanteshwara Temple premises and 500 local people outside.

She defended her decision of cancelling the annual *Rathotsava* and said that allowing the large-scale event in the current situation was not correct.

On whether Government vehicles are exempted from COVID-19 checks at Bavali checkpost along the Kerala border, she asserted that the yardstick for all vehicles-whether Government or private, is the same.

Pointing out that the Chief Minister has ordered for mandatory checking of all persons and vehicles entering Karnataka from neighbouring States, the DC said that she has instructed the officials to compulsorily seek RT-PCR negative reports from all those entering, before letting them to cross the border.

Calling women farmers

Mysuru, Mar. 22- The Horticulture Training Centre at Rangasamudra, has invited applications from women farmers for selecting them to 10-month training programme in Horticulture Farming to take place from May 3, 2021 to Feb. 28, 2022. SSLC passed women farmers in the age group of 18 to 30 years are eligible and the upper age limit is relaxable by three years for SC/ST candidates. Applications can be had from the Horticulture Wing at Mysuru ZP Office between Mar.24 and Apr.17 or can be downloaded from http://horticulturedir.karnataka.gov.in. For details, call Ph: 0821-2977572.

SRI VAISHNAVA SABHA
Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-570 009

General Body Meeting of Sri Vaishnava Sabha Scheduled on 28.03.2021 at 10.00am under the President Sri Gopal Iyengar postponed due to Carona Covid-19 restriction. Future date will be notified.

Sd/- Secretary

Vaastu-Feng Shui & Bio-energetics

By S.B.S.Surendran
Accredited Master Feng Shui Consultant

Lucky Bamboo for good energy

Plants have an important position in the science of Feng Shui. Plant represents wood elements in the five element theory of the metaphysical science. In the cycle of elements, plant gets its support from water element as water nourishes the plant and the sector in the compass which denotes wood element is the East.

There are many different kinds of plants which are adapted as Feng Shui enhancers; however, one of the popular plants are the Lucky Bamboo plants. Bamboo is said to be a plant which brings a very peaceful and good energy into the home. It also symbolises flexibility and hollow (openness) on the inside, so that the spirit can freely flow and heal your being.

The bamboo plants in water not only add to the home décor but it influences our life energy, vitality and physical activity as wood is always depicted as a vertical growth. It also attracts the flow of positive Chi energy wherever it is placed. Lucky Bamboo (Dracaena sanderiana) as it grows towards the light, it can be easily pruned into interesting, decorative shapes and need very less water and light to grow so it is the best indoor plant for the home or office.

It is essential to position the plant at the correct sector. The best direction to place a bamboo tree is East or Southeast corner of the home garden or if its a water bamboo too. The Eastern section of the home or office represents family so place a Bamboo plant with three stalks in this area. For inviting wealth and prosperity it should be placed at the Southeast corner of the living or home.

To activate good Feng Shui and bring together a symbolic balance of the 5 elements of Feng Shui, the bamboo stems can be decorated to bind the elements in one place. Use a earthen or porcelain container with rocks, or pebbles as the substitutes for earth to grow your luck bamboo tree. Tie a red colour or any other bright colour ribbon on your vase or pot which symbolise the fire.

Add a metal coin (gold, silver, and copper, bronze and brass) in the pot or use glass pots to grow bamboo tree to represent the metal. Fill the container with water as it symbolises sustenance of life force and finally, the bamboo stalk itself represents the wood element. Place this arrangement in the living room East or Southeast.

The number of stalks of the water bamboo plant has a deeper meaning as each number has a significance.

In Feng Shui, Yang (odd numbers) are considered to be most lucky and hence the number of bamboo stalks determines your luck to a large extent.

3 - Bamboo stalks bring the three components of life — happiness, wealth and longevity — together.

5 - Bamboo stalks are helpful to attract wealth.

6 - Bamboo stalks brings prosperity and favourable conditions.

7 - Bamboo stalks brings good health.

8 - Bamboo stalks brings growth and prosperity.

10 - Bamboo stalks means complete and perfect.

21 - Bamboo stalks offer a very powerful and all-purpose blessing.

Finally, take good care of the bamboo plants for. If the plant withers, it will no longer represent favourable luck which also means time to replace. However, take proper care by keeping clean, fresh water in the vase and change them regularly. Water quality influences the look of the plant and the quality of energy it exudes.

[fengshui@fengshuiserver.com]

Festive valedictory to 'Yuva Sangeetha Sambhrama'

Vijayasurya rendering a nagaswara online concert under the auspices of Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha, accompanied by Nandan Kashyap on mridanga, Prithvi Bhaskar on violin & Shrinidhi R. Koundinya on ghata.

Vid. Vijayasurya and team presented an online Nagaswara concert under the 'Yuva Sangeetha Sambhrama' series of Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust, Mysuru, on 31st January.

Grandson of Asthana Vidwan Papannaiah, Vijayasurya acquired the skills of the art initially from his father and further under the guidance of his uncle and renowned Nagaswara artiste Vid. Krishnamurthy. It is notable that he is also learning classical vocal and flute from eminent teachers.

Nagaswara is also known as Mangalavadya due to its prominence in all auspicious occasions. The first presentation, 'Ninnukori' (Vasantha - Adi), a composition of Tacchur Singaaraachari, wherein the charana was aptly ornamented with kalpanaswaras, marked an auspicious beginning to the concert. The next one was Purandaradasa's Devaranama, 'Vandisuvudadiyali' (Nata-Khandachapu) with a neat and brisk ragalapana.

Vijayasurya chose a scholarly rendition of 'Shambho Mahadeva', a composition of Thyagaraja in raga Kamavardhini set to Rupaka tala for his final piece. Both Vijayasurya and **Vidu. Prithvi Bhaskar** (on violin) excelled in their respective instruments, capturing the entire beauty of the raga in the elaborate alapana and kalpanaswaras.

The contribution of percussion artistes, **Vid. Nandan Kashyap** on mridanga and **Vid. Shrinidhi R. Koundinya** on ghata, was significant with compatible following and lively layavinyasa. The mangalavadya concert, 13th under the series, presented with enthusiasm by all the artistes won the hearts of the audience with a blissful celebratory mood.

The vocal concert by **Vidu. Prithvi Bhaskar,** premièred on 6th February was the fourteenth and the concluding concert under the series. She is the granddaughter of the popular senior violinist, Vid. H. K. Narasimhamurthy and daughter of internationally acclaimed violinist, Vid. H.N. Bhaskar.

A promising talent both in violin and vocal music, she is being trained in Karnatak vocal music by her grandmother, Vidu. H.N. Rajalakshmi. She is also pursuing training in Hindustani vocal music.

Prithvi began her concert with an elegant varna of Lalgudi Jayaraman, 'Neeve Gathiyani' in Nalinakanthi raga, set to Adi tala. The next composition was Muthuswami Dikshitar's 'Rama Rama Kalikalusha Virama' in raga Ramakali, set to Rupaka tala. Ramakali, a rare bhashanga janyaraga of Mayamalavagowla, also belongs to Bhairav thaat in Hindustani style. The rendition of this rare kriti with inherent karunarasa captivated the listeners. B.K. Padmanabha Rao's 'Sathathamu Ninne Sharanantine' (Shivakambhoji - Adi) was the succeeding piece. The alluring mood of this yet another rare raga was vividly evident in the rendition with a short alapana and brisk swaraprastara.

One more composition of Dikshitar in raga Kumudakriya and Rupaka tala, 'Ardhanareeshwaram' was the main item of the concert. The technique in which the vocalist approached the kriti in this panchamavarjya raga, dominated by bhakthirasa, with an aesthetic alapana and matured presentation, was a testimony to her competence. Prithvi's rendition of madhyamakala sahithya woven with skilful kalpanaswaras in various paces was well complemented by the equally proficient Vidu. C. V. Shruthi on violin. Vid. Nandan Kashyap (mridanga) and Vid. Shamith S Gowda (ghata) supported the concert ably following the manodharma of the vocalist and with a scintillating thani avarthana.

The selection of compositions in rare ragas and the way they were handled and delivered with dexterity, won the hearts of the rasikas. With the devaranama 'Harismarane Mado' (Yamunakalyani - Adi) of Kanakadasa, the curtains were drawn for the concert as well as for the 'Yuva Sangeetha Sambhrama' series being premièred since October, 2020.

The organisers and sponsors of the series deserve appreciation for encouraging and showcasing young and upcoming talents capable of carrying forward the musical heritage of Mysuru.

—Vijayamala K. Saralaya

Prithvi Bhaskar presenting an online vocal concert under Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha accompanied by C.V. Shruthi on violin, Nandan Kashyap on mridanga and Shamith S. Gowda on ghata.

'For how many generations reservations will continue,' asks Supreme Court

New Delhi, Mar.22 (Agencies)- For how many generations would reservations in jobs and education continue, the Supreme Court sought to know during the Maratha quota case hearing on Friday and raised concerns over "resultant inequality" in case the overall 50 per cent limit was to be removed.

A five-Judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan was vehemently told by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Maharashtra, that the Mandal judgement on capping the quota needed a re-look in changed circumstances. He said the Courts should leave it to States to fix reservation quotas in view of the changed circumstances and the Mandal judgement was premised on census of 1931.

Arguing in favour of the Maharashtra law granting quota to Marathas, Rohatgi referred to various aspects of the Mandal judgement, also known as Indra Sawhney case and said the Centre's decision to grant 10 percent quota to people from economically weaker section also breached the 50 percent cap.

" If there is no 50 percent or no limit, as you are suggesting, what is the concept of equality then. We will ultimately have to deal with it. What is your reflection on that... What about the resultant inequality. How many generations will you continue," observed the Bench, which also comprised Justices L. Nageswara Rao, S. Abdul Nazeer, Hemant Gupta and S. Ravindra Bhat.

Rohatgi said there were many reasons for the re-look of the Mandal judgment which was premised on the census of 1931 and moreover, the population has increased many fold and reached to 135 crore.

The Bench said that 70 years have passed since independence and the States have been carrying on so many beneficial schemes and "can we accept that no development has taken place, that no backward caste has moved forward." It also observed that the purpose of reviewing the Mandal judgement was that those who have come out from backwardness must be eliminated.

"Yes, we have moved forward. But it is not that backward classes have gone down from 50 to 20 per cent. We still have starvation deaths in this country... I am not trying to say that Indra Sawhney is completely wrong, throw it in the dustbin. I am raising issues that 30 years have gone by, the law has changed, the population has grown, backward persons may also have increased," Rohatgi said.

He referred to amendments made in the Constitution and said they are the indicators that the country has not reached "anywhere near the emancipation" it required for its backwards classes.

"The fact of the matter is Parliament should know what is going on in the country. If Parliament knows it is more than 50 percent and has given 10 percent to a class of economically backward section, no warrant from Court should say it cannot go over 50 percent," he argued.

When a number of States have reservations exceeding 50 percent and in this situation, it cannot be said that this is not "a burning issue" and does not require a relook after 30 years, he said.

The arguments in the case remained inconclusive and would resume today (Monday).

Supreem Pharmaceuticals employees

conduct cleaning drive, give new look to road

Mysuru, Mar. 22 (KS) - Supreem Pharmaceuticals, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity under Swachh Bharat Mission, conducted a cleaning drive and gave a new look to nearly one kilometre stretch of the road in Nanjangud Industrial Area on Mar. 14.

More than 130 employees took up the cleaning drive of the stretch of the road from its factory up to Mysuru-Ooty Main Road during which heaps of garbage on either side of the road were cleaned and about two tonnes of waste collected.

S.N. Rao, Supreem Pharmaceuticals Managing Director S.N. Rao said "This was our long pending initiative. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we were not able to take up the cleaning drive. 130 employees, who took part in the drive, were divided into 13 groups of 10 members in each group. We are confident that this initiative will go long way in setting up good precedent in the industrial surroundings. In the days to come, we have also planned more such activities including our annual diabetic camp at various villages. For the past many years, the factory under its CSR fund, not only conducted free diabetic camps in many villages, but also provided free tablets to those deserving people."

Deputy Manager N. Shashidhar said, "To start with, the place where we regularly visit including our area where we work should be kept clean. Though we have lot of programmes to develop co-ordination with each other, this sort of external work will go a long way. It really improves team relation. Hence we request our management to conduct such event at regular intervals. These sort of events will also enable other companies to take up in their respective areas and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of Swachh Bharat can be fulfilled."

Mysureans have a reason to smile

at MUDA's Rs. 385.74 cr. surplus budget

Mysuru, Mar.22 (SSV)- Construction of clock tower at four different extensions; two welcome arches on main roads connecting the city; revival of defunct borewells in public parks; Rain Water Harvesting units in parks and Yoga Kendras in parks and open places.

These were some of the projects proposed by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in it's Rs. 385.74 crore surplus Budget for year 2021-22 that was presented by MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh here on Saturday.

According to the budget, two welcome arches in the name of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar have been proposed in the current fiscal.

While Nalwadi's arch is planned on Mysuru-Bengaluru Road, Jayachamarajendra's arch is planned on Nanjangud-Mysuru Road. The cost of these two arches has been estimated at Rs.1.20 crore.

CLOCK TOWERS

The MUDA has so far, distributed over one lakh sites in this heritage City and keeping in view the specialty of layouts, clock towers will be constructed at four different extensions. A sum of Rs. 2 crore has been set aside for this project. The MUDA has developed parks in all its layouts where borewells have been sunk to water plants. However, many borewells have failed owing to fall in groundwater level. So, the defunct borewells would be revived and Rain Water Harvesting facility would be created for re-energising ground water level. For this, Rs. 2 crore has been earmarked.

YOGA CENTRES

Since Mysuru has been identified as a hub of yoga, Yoga Centres will be established on area measuring 60 feet x 40 feet dimension at all MUDA developed parks and open spaces. Besides, demand from Mysureans, even the State Government has taken steps for the promotion of yoga. The cost of each Yoga Centre has been estimated at Rs. 25 lakh and 20 centres would be established during 2021-22 at a cost of Rs. 5 crore.

DONATION

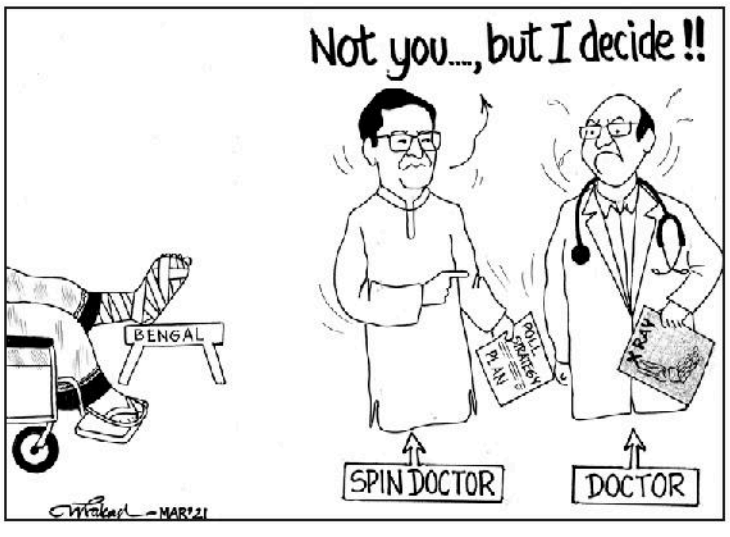
As part of social commitment, the MUDA has resolved to give away Rs. 35 lakh to the Mysuru Zoo for purchase of scanning and X-ray unit for its Chamundi Animal Conservation, Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Koorgalli.

Besides, Rs 5 crore has been earmarked for purchase of CT-Scan and Ultra Sound Scan machines, OT table and lighting for the newly-built District Hospital on KRS Road. This will help in providing treatment to the needy patients. A sum of Rs.1 crore has been earmarked for PKTB Hospital that has been converted into Covid Care Centre to buy CT-Scan and Ultra Sound Scan machines.

The MUDA has earmarked Rs.1 crore for the upgradation of electric crematorium at the foot of Chamundi Hills by establishing two more electrical and two gas crematoriums. For other infrastructure, Rs 50 lakh has been provided.

TEASER

By N. Prakash



WORD OF THE DAY

Prevaricate

Pronunciation: prih-VAIR-uh-kayt.
Meaning: To deviate from the truth: equivocate.
Origin: Prevaricate and its synonyms lie and equivocate all refer to playing fast and loose with the truth. Lie is the bluntest of the three. When you accuse someone of lying, you are saying that person was intentionally dishonest, no bones about it. Prevaricate is less accusatory and softens the bluntness of lie, usually implying that someone is evading the truth rather than purposely making false statements. Equivocate is similar to prevaricate, but it generally implies that someone is deliberately using words that have more than one meaning as a way to conceal the truth.
Example: "It amused him to hear the ethical and emotional platitudes of lawyers, to see how readily they would lie, steal, prevaricate, misrepresent in almost any cause and for any purpose." — Theodore Dreiser, The Financier, 1912

THE ODD WORD

Paduasoy

Corded silk.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Playing for keeps

Meaning: If someone says they are going to play for keeps, that means they're done playing around and they're about to get serious.
Origin: This phrase might come from the game of marbles. How so? In marbles, players draw a circle on the ground and then put some marbles inside. Afterwards, they take turns trying to knock the marbles out of the circle by flicking their own marbles at them. If they successfully knock a marble out, they might get to keep it if they win. I think at the beginning of a game, players can decide if they are "playing for keeps." Anyways, this expression with its figurative meaning has been around since at least 1842. It is written in the Hattiesburg American newspaper from that year: "In the second and third heats, George realized this was a mistake, because it made Joe angry and he started playing for keeps."

QUOTE BOX

Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn. — **O. Fred Donaldson**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

TEETH
TEETH

Answer: Set your teeth on edge.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

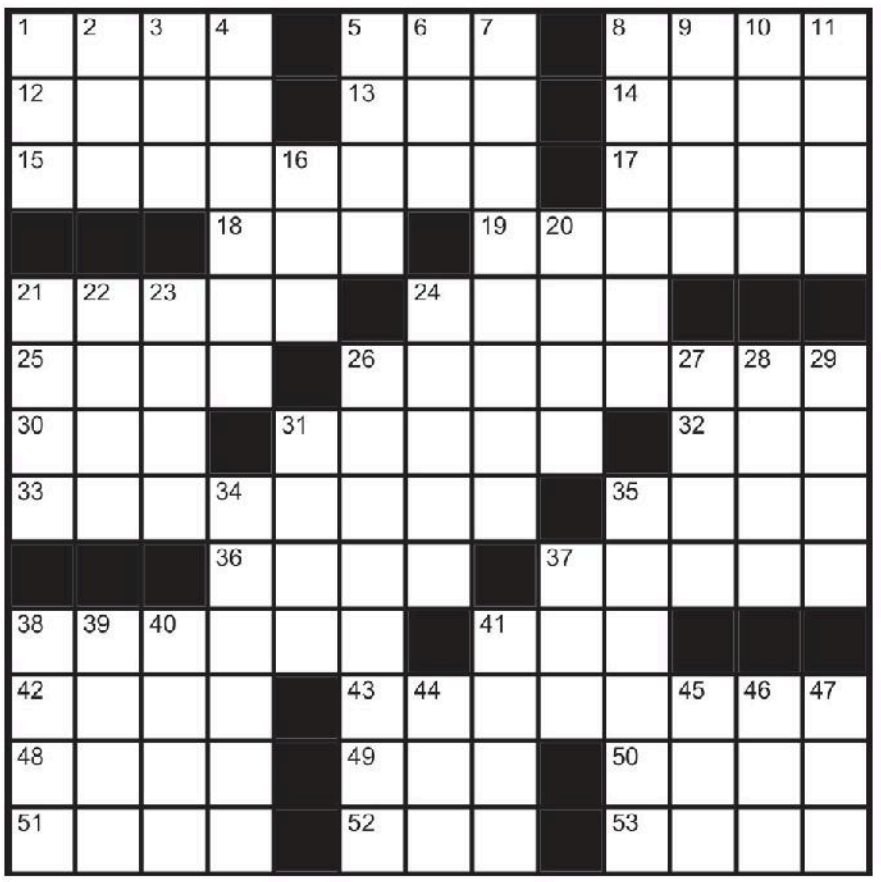
1 Medieval Scandinavian chieftain
5 Pad of loose material
8 Sampras of tennis
12 Inwardly
13 Supplement
14 Very small particle
15 Behave badly towards
17 South Indian dialect
18 Exceed
19 Small insects like greenfly
21 Assign
24 Goodbye
25 Brass instrument
26 Man who sells goods
30 "Rockaria!" band
31 Field measures
32 Kyushu mountain
33 Of many kinds
35 eg Czech
36 Antitoxins
37 Goddess of the hunt
38 Fame
41 Prohibit
42 Toil
43 Sound and Fury author
48 In __ veritas
49 And for the German
50 Sea snakes
51 One end of a hammer
52 Popular display technology
53 Arrivederci __

SATURDAY'S ANSWER

A	R	M	■	P	U	F	F	■	D	I	S	C
V	O	N	■	O	R	A	L	■	I	D	L	I
A	D	E	Q	U	A	C	Y	■	X	I	A	N
■	■	M	U	F	T	I	■	S	I	E	G	E
O	T	O	E	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	■	■
M	A	N	L	Y	■	E	L	O	■	C	O	O
E	X	I	L	E	D	■	B	R	A	H	M	S
S	I	C	■	A	A	L	■	E	W	E	R	S
■	■	■	S	T	Y	L	E	■	A	S	I	A
O	V	E	N	S	■	A	P	A	R	T	■	■
D	E	M	I	■	E	M	I	N	E	N	C	E
D	R	I	P	■	M	A	C	E	■	U	H	F
S	A	T	E	■	P	S	S	T	■	T	A	T

DOWN

1 Petname for James
2 Black bird
3 "Treasure Island" monogram
4 Biographer Strachey
5 Shed tears
6 Also know as, in short?
7 Listed, itemised or described?
8 An expression of deep feeling
9 Case for needles
10 Divulged
11 Australian birds
16 Decay
20 Leander of Indian tennis
21 Clearing of the throat
22 1970 Kinks hit
23 Author Hubbard
24 "Cheers" waitress
26 Derisive
27 Ms Sinha of days gone by
28 __ __ example (e.g.) (2,2)
29 Exploding star
31 Not many (1,3)
34 Polygon having all angles equal
35 Goes on a fishing-line
37 Indian dish
38 Invitation letters
39 Nobelist Wiesel
40 Not any
41 Zola ___ : the controversial South African runner ?
44 Mandela's org.
45 Modern prefix
46 Hardwood tree
47 Natal land, abbr.



SUDOKO

	4		2			9		
		1	3	5				
		8			7		2	
							3	4
	9		5		1		7	
5	8							
	1		4			8		
				7	3	2		
		2			8		5	

Answer to previous puzzle

1	3	8	7	6	5	2	9	4
5	7	6	4	2	9	1	3	8
9	4	2	1	3	8	5	6	7
3	5	4	6	9	1	8	7	2
8	1	9	5	7	2	6	4	3
6	2	7	3	8	4	9	1	5
7	9	5	8	1	3	4	2	6
4	6	1	2	5	7	3	8	9
2	8	3	9	4	6	7	5	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

RBFBG PB N HERAH, BFBR N MBRIZB CRB. RBFBG

VBZO CTI N XRBBG, BFBR NI IVB KBFAZ.

TODAY'S CLUE: I EQUALS T

Saturday's Cryptoquip: Dig where the gold is...unless you just need some exercise.

NOW SHOWING - MOVIES

Movie	Theatre	Phone	Shows
Roberrt (K)	Woodlands	2422871	4 Shows
	Mahadeshwara	9986022634	4 Shows
	Gayathri	2443568	4 Shows
	Saraswathi	2541451	4 Shows
Munduvareda Adhyaya (K)	Prabha	2423569	4 Shows
	Lakshmi	2443584	4 Shows
Chakra (Ta)	Padma	2521923	4 Shows
	Uma	2520009	4 Shows
Chaavu Kaburu Challaga (Te)	Rajkamal	2423554	4 Shows
Mumbai Saga (H)	Balaji Deluxe	2497199	4 Shows
	Sangam	2520494	4 Shows
	Thibbadevi	2452958	4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Hero (K)	(S-1)	10.30 am; (S-3) 4.15 pm
Roberrt (K)	(S-1)	1 pm, 4.10 pm, 9.55 pm
	(S-4)	10.15 am, 6.45 pm
Mumbai Saga (H)	(S-1)	7.20 pm
	(S-4)	1.30 pm, 4.10 pm, 9.55 pm
Chaavu Kaburu Challagaa (Te)	(S-2)	10.35 am, 9.45 pm
Sasi (Te)	(S-2)	1.20 pm
Jathi Rathnalu (Te)	(S-2)	4 pm
Mosagallu (Te)	(S-2)	7 pm
Munduvareda Adhyaya (K)	(S-3)	10.45 am
Ondu Ghanteya Kathe (K)	(S-3)	1.30 pm
The Priest (Ma)	(S-3)	6.55 pm, 9.55 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE — Ph: 2533444 / 2533456

Roberrt (K)	(S-1)	10.30 am, 2.15 pm 6 pm, 9.45 pm
	(S-2)	1.15 pm, 5 pm, 8.45 pm
	(S-4)	11.30 am
Mumbai Saga (H)	(S-3)	10.40am, 4pm, 7pm, 9.55pm
Ondu Ghanteya Kathe (K)	(S-3)	1.30 pm
Chaavu Kaburu Challagaa (Te)	(S-2)	10.15 am
Jathi Rathnalu (Te)	(S-4)	3.00 pm
Munduvareda Adhyaya (K)	(S-4)	6.30 pm
The Priest (Ma)	(S-4)	9.30 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Ondu Ghanteya Kathe (K)	(S-1)	10.30 am
Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar (H)	(S-1)	12.30 pm, 3 pm
Mosagallu (Te)	(S-1)	5.30 pm
Roberrt (K)	(S-1)	8.15 pm
	(S-2)	11 am, 2.30 pm, 6 pm , 9.15
Mumbai Saga (H)	(S-3)	1.45 am, 4.05 pm, 6.35 pm
	(S-4)	9.15 pm
The Priest (Ma)	(S-3)	1.15 pm, 9.15 pm
	(S-4)	6.20 pm
Munduvareda Adhyaya (K)	(S-4)	11.15 am, 3.50 pm
Ondu Ghanteya Kathe (K)	(S-4)	1.45 pm

PVR

Forum Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357088

Roberrt (K)	: 10 am, 11 am, 1.40 pm, 2.40 pm, 5.20 pm 5.50 pm, 6.20 pm, 9 pm, 9.30, 10 pm
Mumbai Saga (H)	: 9.30 am, 12.30 pm, 3.30 pm, 9.30 pm
Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar (H)	: 11.45 am, 6.30 pm
Mosagallu (Te)	: 3.30 pm
Roohi (H)	: 2.45 am, 9.45 pm
Chaavu Kaburu Challagaa (Te)	: 12 noon, 6.40 pm
The Priest (Ma)	: 6.30 pm
Ondhu Ganteya Kathe (K)	: 9.55 am
Sasi (Te)	: 12.25 pm
Jathi Rathnalu (Te)	: 3.10 pm, 9.50 pm

Garuda Mall, 1st Floor. Mob: 9901357088

Roberrt (K)	: 11 am, 2.10 pm, 2.40 pm, 5.50 pm 6.20 pm, 9.30 pm, 10 pm
Chaavu Kaburu Challagaa (Te)	: 3.20 pm
Roohi (H)	: 3.35 pm
Jathi Rathnalu (Te)	: 10.50 am, 6.30 pm
Hero (K)	: 12.40 pm
Mumbai Saga (H)	: 12.20 pm, 6.40 pm
Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar (H)	: 9.40 pm
The Priest (Ma)	: 9.50 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here.

Niranthara Ranga Utsava in city from March 24

Dance-Drama 'Kudalasangama'

Mysuru, Mar. 22- City-based Niranthara Foundation has organised 'Niranthara Ranga Utsava' at RamaGovinda Rangamandira in Ramakrishnanagar here from March 24 to 28.

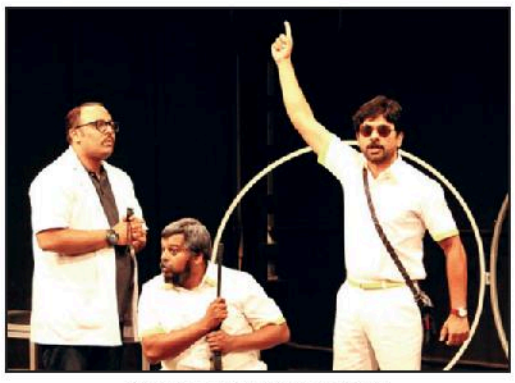
March 24

6.15 pm: Inauguration of the Fest in the presence of senior thinker P. Mallesh, MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh, Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy and Prasad Kundooru of Niranthara; **7 pm:** Dance-Drama 'Kudalasangama' [Directed by M.M. Suguna] will be presented by Niranthara.

March 25

7 pm: Play 'Kudure Bantu Kudure' by Koshika, Udupi. [Directed by Rohith R. Bykadi]

Kudure Bantu Kudure



Kovigondu Kannadaka

March 26

7 pm: 'Seeta Swayamvaram' by Rangayana, Mysuru. [Directed by Jeevan Kumar Heggodu]

March 27

7 pm: 'Kovigondu Kannadaka' by Bangalore TheatreCollective.[DirectedbyVenkateshPrasad]

March 28

6.15 pm: Valedictory in the presence of Commissioner for Income Tax, Chennai, Jayaram Raipura and DCP-Law & Order Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda, Jayaram Patil of Ranga Geleyaru, Mysuru and M.M. Suguna of Niranthara Foundation; **7 pm:** Play 'Kantu' by Samasthi, Bengaluru. [Directed by Manjunath L. Badiger]

Seeta Swayamvaram

Kantu

EVENTS TODAY (MARCH 22)

- **Sahara Arts and Crafts Shopping Festival:** Handicraft and Handloom Expo-cum-Sale, JSS Ground, next to Doddakere Maidan, opp. Dasara Exhibition Grounds, **up to 9.30 pm.**
- **District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru:** *Nudi Namana* to senior scholar late Dr. Malali Vasanthakumar, Sahitya Bhavan, Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Vijayanagar 1st Stage, **5 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (MARCH 23)

- **Sahara Arts and Crafts Shopping Festival:** Handicraft and Handloom Expo-cum-Sale, JSS Ground, next to Doddakere Maidan, opp. Dasara Exhibition Grounds, **10.30 am to 9.30 pm.**
- **People's Association for Geriatric Empowerment (PAGE), Mysuru Chapter:** Interaction on 'COVID-19 vaccine,' PAGE President Dr. Hanumanthachar Joshi, Secretary General Dr. Pratibha Pereira (JSS Medical College), Vice-President Dr. P.L. Basavanna (MMC&RI) will take part, Pathrakartara Bhavan, Thyagaraja Road, **11.30 am.**

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VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANE

RENUKA DEVI P.
DOD : 15.03.2021
Retd., Income Tax Dept., Mysore
W/o M. Narendranath

Vaikunta Samaradhane ceremony will be held at Flat No.402, J.R. Towers, near Arogyanatha Church, Railway Station Road, Kadapa (AP) on 26.03.2021 at 11 AM.

— Husband : M. Narendranath, Daughter : Keerthana & Family Members. Mob: 9902441990 / 9611572771

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Ph: 0821-4243346

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#102/A, 'Panchamantra Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru-23
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SUJATHA TRAVELS
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Ph: 0821-4194848
Mob: 9902269988

VIDYARANYAPURAM
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Mob: 9886681313

Advertising Department
0821-2496523 / 94485-25060 / 98805-49879

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